



EPA TO HOST PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION AND CONDUCT COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS IN VIEQUES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be in Vieques the week of October 6, 2003 to conduct community interviews and host a public availability session on environmental cleanup activities in Vieques.

Community interviews are a way for EPA to listen to the public affected by an environmental project and provide the foundation for developing a Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will highlight the concerns of the public and detail the methods EPA will use to inform and involve people in the upcoming actions in Vieques .

EPA would like to invite members of the public to share their concerns and needs and to ask questions regarding the upcoming investigations and cleanup. These informal interviews can be conducted one on one in people's homes or in small groups at the nearby office of the Special Commissioner for Vieques and Culebra, Calle Prudencio Quiñones # 35, Esquina Carlos Lebrum, Vieques, PR.

The interviews will be scheduled from 9 a.m.to 8 p.m. beginning Monday, October 6th through 9th. If you would like to participate please call Daniel Rodriguez of EPA at (787) 977-5849, or via electronic mail at rodriguez.daniel@epa.gov, to schedule a time and preferred location.

Additionally, EPA will be hosting a public session to talk about the current and future activities at the Vieques site. Representatives from the EPA, and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, will all be available to answer your questions and listen to your concerns about the project. The session is scheduled for:

Thursday, October 9, 2003
5 - 8 p.m.
Centro de Usos Múltiples
Calle Antonio G. Mellado
(Across the street from the Plaza Pública)
Vieques, Puerto Rico

EPA is committed to public participation at every phase of the upcoming activities in Vieques through an open process that encourages affected communities to provide input on the critical issues related to

the cleanup. EPA strongly encourages the residents of Vieques to participate in these upcoming community involvement activities.